

Recovery Act Bulletin

		NUMBER: 10-05
SUBJECT: PRIORITIZING AND EXPEDITING THE PERMITTING AND APPROVAL OF PROJECTS RECEIVING RECOVERY ACT FUNDING		DATE ISSUED: July 2, 2010
REFERENCES: AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 ("RECOVERY ACT")		SUPERSEDES:

TO: Agency Secretaries
Department Directors
Departmental Budget Officers
Departmental Accounting Officers
Department of Finance Budget Staff

FROM: California Recovery Task Force

Purpose: To accelerate the pace at which State departments process permits and approvals for projects receiving Recovery Act funding, thereby helping ensure that Recovery Act dollars are used in an expeditious manner consistent with both federal timelines and the pressing economic needs of Californians.

Directive: State departments are to prioritize and expedite the permitting and approval of projects receiving Recovery Act funding. Relevant permitting and approvals include, but are not limited to, those relating to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance, endangered species, historic preservation, air and water quality, public health and safety, energy, telecommunication and utilities development, and miscellaneous building code and encroachment permitting.

On June 17, Vice President Biden delivered a report, "Summer of Recovery: Project Activity Increases in Summer 2010," to the President detailing the expected surge in Recovery Act infrastructure projects that will be underway this summer – and the jobs those projects will create into the fall and through the end of 2010. Pursuant to this increased focus on expeditious spending, and due to the pressing needs of the California economy and the limited timeframe the state has to spend Recovery Act funds, a renewed effort is needed from State departments to accelerate California's rate of spending on Recovery Act projects.

Background: On February 13, 2009, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and President Obama signed it into law four days later. The Recovery Act was a direct response to the nation's economic crisis and represented the largest federal economic stimulus effort since the Great Depression. The majority of Recovery Act spending will occur over two years, ending in 2011. Over the life of the Recovery Act, California is expected to receive more than \$85 billion dollars in federal stimulus funds. The goals of the Recovery Act are:

- To preserve and create jobs, promote economic recovery.
- To assist those most impacted by the recession.
- To provide investments needed to increase economic efficiency by spurring technological advances in science and health.
- To invest in transportation, environmental protection, and other infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits.
- To stabilize State and local government budgets in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services.

Questions: For questions regarding this Recovery Act Bulletin, please contact the California Recovery Task Force at (916) 445-1546.